



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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**Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, February 4, 2015**

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
DuPage County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Committee Members

Present: Martin Jaffe - UIC, Marcella Bondie-Keenan (for Anne McKibben) – Elevate Energy, Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Deb Stone – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Mike Sullivan – Kane / Kendall Council of Mayors, Patricia Werner – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Nancy Williamson – IDNR

Absent: Ed Collins – MCCD, Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Jon Grosshans – U.S. EPA, Pete Harmet – IDOT, Stacy Meyers – Openlands, Wallace Van Buren – IAWA, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation,

Staff Present: Jason Navota, Holly Hudson, Louise Yeung, Brian Daly, Nora Beck

Others Present: Lydia Scott – Chicago Region Trees Initiative and Morton Arboretum, Mark Wagstaff – M3

1.0 Call to Order

With the Committee co-chairs unavailable, Martin Jaffe called the meeting to order at approximately 9:40 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Nora Beck introduced four announcements.

- [Water 2050 Regional Forum](#): CMAP and the Metropolitan Planning Council are convening a water supply planning group on a quarterly basis to discuss regional water supply planning and management issues and coordinate with IDNR. The next meeting is in April, see website for more details.
- IEPA & AWWA [water-loss auditing and control trainings](#): These trainings are free and could help communities reduce water loss; please share details with your partners.
- Regional Plan update: Jason Navota, CMAP staff, provided a quick update on the Regional Planning activities. CMAP is beginning to lay the groundwork for developing the successor to GO TO 2040, which is due to be complete in 2018. Referring to the earlier [presentation](#) he made in November 2014, Navota outlined why the agency is starting this process now, what the timeline will be, and how

CMAP staff are currently approaching the planning process. Committee members asked a number of questions:

- Demographic forecasts, will they change given how GO TO 2040 was created before the recession. Navota responded that these are long range forecasts, also based on implementation of the plan's policies.
- Discussion of how to engage communities in implementing the regional plan vision.
- Lake Michigan, currently under CMAP's consideration as it relates to the coastal zone, stormwater management, and also the Chicago Area Waterways and freight.
- Waste reduction, discussion on how it relates to CMAP's implementation strategies. Fractured system can result in municipalities not understanding their options, need for a central voice. Yeung to follow up with Deb Stone.
- CMAP Executive Director; Randy Blankenhorn is now the Secretary of the Department of Transportation; Jill Leary is acting Executive Director; the CMAP Board has stated that they aim to permanently fill the position in May of this year.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – January 7, 2014

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 7 meeting was made by Joe Schuessler, seconded by Martin Jaffe, and with all in favor, carried.

4.0 Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI) – Lydia Scott, Morton Arboretum

Launched in July 2014, this collaborative effort is focused on making a significant, measurable improvement to the regional forest and the lives of its inhabitants by the year 2040. Using a [presentation](#), Scott explained the overall goal of the CRTI and how they have organized their efforts. With eight different workgroups, Scott stepped through the mission and activities of each one. The Forest Composition workgroup is building an inventory and mapping an urban tree canopy analysis. Scott asked that if private tree inventories are known of, that they be sent to Lindsay Darling (ldarling@mortonarb.org). The layers will be available online at CMAP and connect to the GIV. CRTI is also conducting an Oak Recovery mapping effort to identify 1 acre parcels of native oak stands. This workgroup is also conducting a survey of municipal operations.

Several other workgroups are focused on expanding the number of volunteers, providing a mentoring network, and educating on best practices – including risk assessment and management. CRTI is also partnering with the Northeast Climate Science Center to expand our understanding of how urban forests respond to climate change, which will result in case studies of 12 Chicago area examples. Another workgroup is focused on working with industry and associations to improve tree management, including golf courses, cemeteries, contractors, nurseries. Developing a short course for training municipal staff that are doing tree maintenance, but do not have extensive training on the topic. In addition, the Trees and Green infrastructure workgroup is helping develop forest management plans, hosting an ordinance workshop on best tree preservation, maintenance, and planting requirements. This workgroup, with assistance from Bob Fahey is also developing the Oak Ecosystem Recovery Plan which has identified 7 key strategies. CRTI is also promoting Oaktober, as oak awareness month.

ENR committee members asked a number of questions, which prompted discussion on the following points:

- Cost-effectiveness: Given limited municipal resources, is CRTI providing guidance to help villages prioritize their efforts. Species diversity and caring for the species that they already have.
- Coordination with water conservation efforts: Drought preparedness efforts have promoted water conservation via lawn watering restrictions; will trees be impacted by these.
- Disaster resilience: Have the impacts of ice storms been accounted for in guidelines. Guidance has identified vertical branching as something to be conscious of, important for homeowners who want lower maintenance yards.
- Technical guidelines: Currently, guidelines focus on homeowners, developing ones for municipal governments and IDOT. Will provide guidelines on how to minimize root interference with underground utilities (electrical and sewers). City of Chicago has low life expectancy for its street trees, updated sustainable urban infrastructure guidelines are changing tree well standards.
- State Wildlife Action Plan, migration patterns of birds. Looking to incorporate more people involved with these efforts.
- Regional planning work and urban tree canopy: Using LiDAR, the urban tree canopy mapping effort will produce 7 layers and CMAP will eventually be hosting this information.
- Crime and trees: Discussion about not inferring a causal relationship

5.0 National Disaster Resilience Competition – Louise Yeung, CMAP Staff

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is organizing the National Disaster Resilience Competition, which will make \$1 billion available to communities that have been struck by natural disasters in recent years. The competition is design to promote risk assessment and planning and will fund the implementation of innovative resilience projects to better prepare communities for the future. The City of Chicago, Cook County, DuPage County, and State of Illinois are 4 of the 67 eligible applicants due to presidentially-declared major disasters in 2011-2013 related to flooding. Using a [presentation](#), Louise Yeung explained how the four applicants are working together on a coordinated submission and CMAP is one of the partners organizing the effort. After stepping through the phased timeline, Yeung explained that the partners are looking at the root causes of vulnerabilities of the built, natural, and social realms. The conceptual approach is aimed at reducing the sensitivity of populations as well as minimizing their exposure and improving adaptive capacity of the overall system. Yeung provided an overview of the outreach efforts and the different workgroups that have been identified. The partnership will be hosting a public comment period, March 1-13 and are looking for feedback.

ENR committee members asked a number of clarifying questions, which prompted discussion on the following points:

- Qualifying disasters: While our eligibility is due to the recent flooding events, the overall approach is geared at improving long-term resiliency.
- Flooding outside of floodplains: In recognition of the different types of flooding in our region, the pilot areas are representative and the goal is that the lessons

learned in the pilot areas could be scaled up and help inform other efforts elsewhere in the region.

- Types of capital projects: At this stage, we are focused on creating a planning process that brings all the different players to the table and have not assumed to know the physical solutions yet, which will come out of the work of Phase II.
- Level of funding: the maximum award is for \$500 million. The partnership is working on engaging other funders to supplement, especially for items that cannot be funded through HUD funding.
- Discussion about the value of coordination: Using the earlier presentation as an example, it is important to engage these different efforts into a more iterative process so we are working together.
- Data collection challenge. Lake County struggles with collecting information to guide decision-making. Werner saw potential for this effort to help improve data collection. Yeung explained that the State of Illinois is interested in systematic improvements in this area. CMAP is also working to enhance our resources as well. Engagement of property owners, some are not contributing information and it is hard for the county to collect this information, particularly for flooding that is not covered by national programs.
- Damage assessments, U.S. Geological Survey with earthquakes. Using HUD preferred way which could help inform practices here in the region.
- Coordination with SSMMA data layers. Yes, especially for the Cook County pilot area.

Yeung explained that a soon to be released website will provide a way to sign up for more information. The Metropolitan Planning Council is also organizing a year-long focus on resiliency in their monthly roundtable discussions.

6.0 Public Comment

No public comments.

7.0 Next Meeting

The ENR Committee is scheduled to meet next on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

8.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 11:04 am, made by Patty Werner, seconded by Nancy Williamson, and, with all in favor, carried.